

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action mailed March 21, 2006. A three-month extension of time is filed herewith. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed. Claims 1-2 and 4-12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 3 remains pending along with new Claims 13-16.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTION – Claim 3

The Office Action rejects Claims 3 as being anticipated by Komai (U.S. Pat. No. 6,017,241.) Applicants respectfully traverse.

For Claim 3, the Office Action states “Komai discloses a gasket 66 (mating under surface, column 3, lines 32-34) with a thickness covers a side of the circuit board and where the at least two contact teeth traverse the thickness of the gasket to make electrical contact with the at least two electrical leads.” Office Action, p. 3. However, Komai does not disclose a gasket. The “seal” referred to in Komai is created by the mating of a “lip/groove seal structure.” Komai, Col. 3, lines 33-35. As shown in Komai Figs. 1, 2 and 4, a lip in lower structure 15 inserts into a groove on upper structure 13 to create a seal. Furthermore, the Komai lip/groove seal structure terminates at the channel recesses 21, 23. (Col. 3, lines 34-35.) Thus, the Komai lip/groove “seal” is not present where the electrical leads traverse the Komai device whereas the gasket of the present invention will contact the electrical leads when the contact teeth are inserted into the sheaths.

Moreover, the “teeth” in Komai do not traverse the thickness of the lip/groove seal structure. As shown in Komai Figs. 3 and 6, the “teeth” are recessed within the side 13/113 of the structure where they are located. In fact, as discussed above, the Komai specification specifically calls for “channel recesses 17, 19; 21, 23” for the electrical leads. (Komai, Col. 3, lines 21-23.) The “teeth” of Komai do not traverse the thickness of the lip/groove structure.

The teeth of the present invention pass through the thickness of the gasket. This allows the gasket to seal the interface between circuit board, contact teeth and electrical leads. This provides a more effective resistance against water intrusion and other fluids. Accordingly, the Komai reference fails to disclose each and every element of Claim 3 and therefore does not satisfy the requirements of §102. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTION – Claim 12

Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

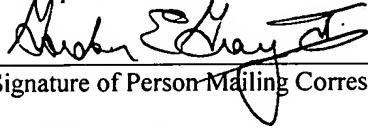
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this case is in good condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If a telephone or further personal conference would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, who will cooperate in any appropriate manner to advance prosecution.

I hereby certify that the above correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 13, 2006.

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Respectfully submitted,



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